1; Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

misfortune came in another form. It was a very snowy year. From the side of the valley opposite to that on which the village stood, from the left bank, came down an avalanche, and this was able, from the bottom of the valley of the river being so filled up, to reach across to the village. The village would have been safe had the original form of the valley been retained, but with the hollow bridged, as it were, with the gravel deposit, the avalanche spread over and made a great plain of thick snow (beneath which the river found its way), and completely buried the houses. It was night time, and all the people were at rest; the headman managed to dig his way out and call aid from other villages. In about twenty hours all the inhabitants of Hamûrî were excavated alive, though some were insensible from the confinement of the air. The people love to relate how that more came out than had been buried, for during the night a child had been born beneath the snow.

Hamûrî was fated to undergo further alarms. Not long after the last event an earthquake brought down a great mass of rock from the cliff that overlooks the place. This landslip destroyed some of the fields and knocked in one or two of the houses, which, however, were empty at the time; so here, too, the Hamûrî people had less ill-fortune than was threatened. But now they concluded that it was time to leave a spot of such danger, and they begged the authorities to give them land elsewhere; but since the keeping up of settlements in these high parts is almost necessary for the aid of travellers between Pâdar and Zânskâr, they were persuaded to stay, with the relief of some reduction of their land-tax; so they built a new village higher up, but they could find no site that is quite free from the danger of avalanches.

A little before coming to Hamûrî we had passed two cascades, on the left bank, made by two streams, near together, tumbling over successive ridges of rock; the whole fall of each was some 1500 feet. In a ravine nearer Hamûrî, where the foot of a glacier that is embosomed high in the mountain comes to the edge of a steep cliff, the water from it comes over in a fall of several hundred feet.

3: Imperial Gazetteer G-3 (1889-95) 1909 AV1 Kashmir AV1
Kashmiri AV4

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surprising. The industry is no longer confined to Kothar, but has spread all over the valley, and its further progress depends on the maintenance and extension of mulberry trees.

Ten filatures have been built, containing 1,800 basins for reeling cocoons, fitted with Italian machinery and giving employment to over 5,000 people in Srīnagar. The quality of the silk steadily improves, and it now commands a price very slightly below Italian silk. In 1897 only 406 ounces of eggs were imported, while in 1906 the import was 27,500 ounces. The number of *zamīndārs* taking seed has risen in the same period from 150 to 14,000, and the weight of cocoons reared from 375 to 21,400 maunds, while the payments to the rearers increased from Rs. 4,300 to Rs. 3,28,500, all the eggs and mulberry leaf being given free of cost. The total production in 1905–6 was 109,072 pounds of raw silk, and 43,349 pounds of silk waste. The profits since 1897, when the industry was started on a scientific basis, have been 15·4 lakhs, of which 4·6 lakhs were made in 1905–6. The total capital outlay has been Rs. 7,25,000, while the working expenses are about 7 lakhs a year.

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The forests of the State are extensive and valuable, and their conservation is of great importance in the interests of the country drained and irrigated by the rivers passing through them. Including the Bhadarwāh *jāgīr*, which contains the finest quality of timber, the area is reported as 2,637 square miles of all kinds, comprising *deodār*, firs, pines, and broad-leaved species. This may be divided into the drainage areas of the Jhelum (1,718 square miles), Chenāb (806), and Rāvi (113). The *deodār*, which is the most valuable species, extends between 5,000 and 9,000 feet above sea-level, and is at its best between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. The blue pine appears at about 6,000 feet, and extends to nearly 10,000 feet, the finest specimens being found mixed with *deodār*. A zone between 8,000 to 11,000 feet is occupied by silver fir, which occurs pure in dense forests at the lower elevation and is mixed at greater heights, first with maple and then with birch. Forest vegetation above 11,000 feet consists of dwarf rhododendron and juniper. Forests.

The total area under *deodār* is about 543 square miles. In the Kashmīr Valley it is found principally, indeed almost entirely, in the north-west—that is, the district known as Kāmrāj—and the largest areas are in the Utr Machipur *tahsīl*. In Udhampur district, which includes the Kishtwār and Padar *tahsīls*, there are 198 square miles of *deodār*-bearing tracts situated on the Chenāb and its affluents. These forests are of *Deodār*.

6: India AV1 Kashmir AV1

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/For information on census taking--training of enumerators, organization and presentation of results, definitions of terms, conduct of the census, critiques of previous censuses, interpretations of trends, and all other aspects--see category 116, pp. vii-x, 11-13, 48, 66-68, 75-78, 89, 93-95, 115-117, 121-124, 134, 147-148, 166-167, 184-185, 197-204, 206, 215, 249-250, 275-277, 288-289, 310-314, and 318./

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REPORT

ON THE

CENSUS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

1931.

CHAPTER I

DISTRIBUTION AND MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

131 1. The big patch of yellow lying upon the top of the pink map of India (between 32°17′ to 36°58′ North Latitude and 73°26′ to 80°30′ East Longitude) represents the territories known as the Jammu and Kashmir State which originating upon the northern borders of the great Punjab plain stretch extensively northwards to the meeting point of the three empires of Britain, China and Russia. Situated on the north-western extremity of India the State occupies a unique position in the Political Geography of the Indian Empire forming a part of the Frontier of India controlling as it does a boundary line of several hundred miles of Frontier touching Tibet, Chinese Turkestan and Russian Turkestan from which countries it is securely isolated and protected by several chains of parallel Himalayan Ranges whose snow-covered peaks render foreign ingress very difficult if not altogether impossible. It is bounded on the north by the Pamirs (the "Roof of the World") and Chinese Turkestan from which it is completely segregated by the eastern off-shoots of the Hindu Kush and the Mustagh or Karakoram mountains which lend an opening into the interior of the Eastern Turkestan through the Karakoram Pass at a height of 18,000 ft. above sea level and own Mount Godwin Austin the second highest peak of the world having an altitude of 28,265 ft. above sea level. The eastern and the western boundaries of the State are made up by the Chinese Tibet and the North-Western Frontier Provinces respectively while on the south it is bounded by the Punjab districts of Jhelum, Gujrat, Sialkot and Gurdaspur, the Chamba State, Spiti and Lahol.

659 In no country of the world are there such magnificient masses of the[1] snow-covered mountains rising to heights before which the Alpine giants will simply dwindle into insignificance.

2. **Natural Divisions.**—The dismemberment of a country into smaller administrative units such as Provinces, Districts and Tehsils being chiefly based on administrative and political considerations does not always provide a satisfactory basis of division for proper presentation and sound analysis of demographic statistics essential requisites of which demand comparison of like with like and scrupulous avoidance of wide generalisation.

Another mode of division of a country would be to partition it into regions possessing more or less similar characteristics based on the similarity of the soil or geographical, geological or meteorological conditions. For the purpoees of Census the essential characteristics of physical conformation, climate and rainfall which influence to a very considerable degree the character, distribution and

[1] [Errata: delete "the"; cf Errata Sheet, p. 329, category 116 -- Analyst]

6:India G-3 (1931)1933 AVI Kashmir AVI

659 standard of living of population in general, and of India (which is 80 per cent. agricultural, depending upon the mercy of timely monsoons) in particular would constitute a fairly good criterion for natural divisions.

But from the practical viewpoint neither of the above two criteria would by itself be sufficient as the presentation of results merely by the natural divisions will defeat the very objects for which a Census is taken by the Government who want to know the distribution of people and their condition in each administrative unit of the country to enable their provincial Governors, District officers, and Tehsildars to take necessary steps for the improvement of conditions in their respective jurisdictions. Experience has shown that it is always wiser to steer the middle course and accept a compromise between the two criteria by following both the methods in exhibiting the conclusions of the Census. The facts should therefore be stated by administrative divisions and the theory based on natural divisions whenever possible. Nowhere is the task of formation of natural divisions fraught with greater difficulties and complications than in the Jammu and Kashmir State where vicissitudes of climate and rainfall and variation of altitude are so pronounced that it is well nigh impossible to find fairly large tracts possessing homogeneous characteristics to enable sound grouping into distinct natural divisions. Not to say of homogeneity of physical features in a province it is rather difficult to find a district possessing same characteristics throughout. Speaking of the Kashmir Valley Sir Walter R. Lawrence has observed:—

"Every hundred feet of elevation brings some new phase of climate and of vegetation and in a short ride of thirty miles one can pass from the overpowering heat to a climate delightfully cool, or can escape from wearisome wet weather to a dry and sunny atmosphere."

If these remarks are true of the great valley a level stretch of country, they are applicable with much greater force to the Frontier Districts having ranges with perpetual snows ensconsing within their folds a large number of valleys and places enjoying the driest climate in the world with practically no rainfall. In view of the aforesaid difficulties it would be futile to attempt any fresh classfication of the natural divisions of the State and consequently we adopt the scheme of Natural Divisions propounded by Fredric Drew Esquire, F. R. G. S., F. G. S., in his "The Jammu and Kashmir Territories" (a geographical account) published in 1875 A. D. with necessary modifications made by Khan Sahib M. Matiuzuman Khan, the Superintendent of Census of this State in 1911, to suit the special requirements of the Census. Sticking to the old divisions has the further advantage of judging the comparative values of the figures with a great degree of accuracy than would otherwise be possible.

The Four Natural Divisions are:—(*i*) *The Sub-montane and the Semi-mountainous Tract.*—This is partly plain and partly broken Kandi country 131 skirting the mountain ranges of the Himalayan series, and consists of tehsils 133 Kathua and Jasmergarh of the Kathua district, the entire district of Jammu 161 comprising Samba, Ranbirsinghpura, Jammu and Akhnoor tehsils, and tehsils Bhimber and Mirpur of the Mirpur district. The southern portions of these tehsils bordering upon the Punjab districts of Jhelum, Gujrat, Sialkot and Gurdaspur possess fertile tracts growing rice, wheat, maize and other crops. This region has been designated by Mr. Drew as "The plain in front of the hills" through which flow the three great rivers of the Punjab namely the Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum as also some perennial streams flowing with sufficient water throughout the year. The irrigation of this tract is carried out partly by canals drawn out of the big rivers (The Ranbir Canal, the Upper Jhelum Canal, the Basantpur and the Ujh Canal) and partly by small *Zimindari Kuhls*. The Ranbirsinghpura tehsil is the most fertile tract in this region having the best soil and receiving sufficient water from the Ranbir Canal; while Samba is the poorest with sandy soil thirsting for water. The northern portions of the above tehsils called "Kandi" being located at a higher level 1,100 to 1,200 ft., has stony and sandy soil where cultivation is meagre and uncertain mostly

*[Errata: read 'have' for 'has'; cf errata sheet, p. 329, Category 116 -- Analyst]